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THE

Academic Review.

A Journal of the

POLYSOPHICAL SOCIETY

— : OF THE : —

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MAY, 1885.

No. 8

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THE ACADEMIC REVIEW.

Brigham Young Academy, Provo, Utah.

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OUR TRIP TO JAPAN.

The above was the subject of a lecture given by Benjamin Cluff before the last meeting of the Polysophical Society. The speaker explained the different phenomena and their causes, met with on a voyage from New York to Yokohama. The fogs of Newfoundland, streams in the ocean, cyclones, monsoons, typhoons, water spouts, etc., were all treated upon.

The Empire of Japan comprises four principal islands; Kiushiu, Shikoku, Nephon, and Yesso—and about 3,800 smaller ones, extending from the tropical zone to the frigid. The climate in the southern part is mild, but toward the north it is more extreme. July and August are the rainy months while the pleasantest time is during October and November, when the rains have ceased, leaving the atmosphere cool and salubrious.

Vegetation is luxuriant and varied. There, mixed in the tropical jungle is the evergreen of the north-temperate zone; the palm and the pine grow side by side, and the banana enjoys the shade of the oak; rice, wheat, potatoes, maize, tea, tobacco, etc., are profitably cultivated. In the abundance and quality of its minerals, Japan ranks among our leading countries. The gold mines of Matsumai are justly celebrated, and silver deposits are found in almost every part of the empire. The northern portion of Nephon is said to be one continuous bed of gold, silver, and copper, but the wary native keeps the greedy Chris-

tian from visiting it, and in like manner he protects his rich iron mines of Yesso. The coal deposits of Japan will compare with those of Great Britain in extent, the beds extending from Najasaki to Matsumai. Sulphur is found in immeasurable mountains, and in a very pure quality.

The history of this interesting country and its peculiar people dates back to the seventh century, B. C. from which time to about 1143 A. D. one dynasty of kings reigned. About this time Yoritomo, a very able and ambitious general, possessed himself of part of the sovereign power; there is now, therefore, two emperors, making the government a kind of oligarchy.

In the 16th century the Portuguese commenced trading with this nation, and the mission of Francis Xavier followed. So much success attended the labors of this man and his assistants that, at one time it appeared as though all Japan would turn Roman Catholic, but the suspicions of the natives were aroused against some of the missionaries; and, fought against by the jealous Dutch, Christianity was driven from the empire. Exclusion of all nations, but the Dutch, was maintained by Japan until 1854, when our own expedition under Commodore Perry succeeded in opening her ports by treaty with the United States.

There is no mystery in the fact that the hair usually turns gray before the whiskers; there is usually about twenty years' difference between the ages of the two crops.

the conditions were such that sixty-two seconds, exposure would be required to produce a good picture, so the plate was exposed successively to each of the thirty-one for a space of two seconds. An exposure of two seconds was entirely too short to produce a perceptible effect, and consequently only those lines of feature would be prominently visible which were common to all the thirty-one or most of them; the peculiarities of a few would be faintly shown, while individualities would be imperceptible. The resulting picture is that of the typical academician.

A composite were shown combining in like manner the features of twelve mathematicians including physicists and astronomers, in one case; sixteen naturalists in another, and twenty-six field geologists in a fourth. The composite faces possess in every instance a dignity which is strongly marked, the features strike one at once as those of high-browed and earnest thinkers.

This admirable process has undoubtedly a bright future. It is proposed to apply the method in all cases in which a graphic average would be of use. The zoologist and botanist can now hope to possess pictures of the much talked of, but little understood "normal form" of the species; and this term itself will now gain a definite and valuable meaning which heretofore has been entirely wanting. Dr. Billings of the U.S.A. has already begun to employ the "Galtonizing process," as the editor of *Science* proposes to call it, in his experiments of craniology. To quote from the same journal: "With this great contribution of Galton well in hand, we may at length hope that we shall be able to enter upon the study of the unexplored realm of the human face, and physiognomy become a tolerably exact science. Some such process as this seems to offer the only chance of obtaining valuable generalizations in this field of enquiry."

VICTOR HUGO.

An address was delivered on the subject of this great man before the History Class by Principal K. G. Maeser at a recent session.

As he was one of the world's living, so will he be now one of the world's dead. But, who was Victor Hugo? some may ask. In answer it must be said that his peers in fame and works among the nations must be sought for in former ages—among the Torquato Tassos and Dantes of Italy, the Shakespeares and Miltons of Old England, the Schillers and Goethes of Germany, and only alongside of Tennyson of our own time can we discover a fitting place for the pedestal of the monument of his fame. Victor Hugo was a Frenchman out and out, but sufficiently cosmopolitan to take an interest in all movements for the advancement of the cause of liberty throughout the world, which trait brought him in contact with the brightest intellects of his time. At the *coup d'etat* of Louis Napoleon whom he despised, he quitted France to live in voluntary exile on the Isle of Jersey, from which retreat he sent forth his fulmination against the usurper which culminated in his notorious pamphlet "Napoleon the Little." His fruitless intercession for the unhappy emperor Maximilian of Mexico, his friendship for the exiles of Russia, Poland, and others have caused his name to be endeared in every land and clime. From among his latest works, "Les Miserables," has been translated perhaps in every civilized language, and also the very interesting novel; "The man who always laughed." After the fall of the empire, Victor Hugo returned to France, where he continued to be revered by his countrymen of all political shades, from the most aristocratic Legitimist down to the wildest Communist. An interesting an-

ecdote is told of him, illustrating that degree of vanity to which he in common with all Frenchmen was subject to. Some foreign ambassadors, in talking with Prince Metternich of Austria about Victor Hugo, some years ago, at a time when the great poet was suffering with an affection of the eye, threatening blindness, remarked that Victor Hugo was consoling himself with the reflection, "we are subject to that calamity you know." Prince Metternich asked astonished, if the family Hugo was really affected with hereditary sore eyes, but was informed that Hugo only meant his peers in poetical fame, Homer and Milton. Victor Hugo had accumulated a considerable fortune by his literary labors, and was buried with public honors in the Pantheon, where his remains are intended to rest in the custody of the French nation.

THE CIRCULATING MEDIUM.

Money may be defined as any article generally taken in exchange for labor and its products. Every nation has found it necessary to adopt some such medium of exchange. It would be much less convenient for individuals living in a part of the country where wheat is the chief product to carry their grain to distant places where clothing, tools, and such like are manufactured, than to sell for money to the wheat dealer, who in turn disposes of the grain to the consumers and buys from them other commodities.

Money is commonly coined from gold and silver, two metals whose rarity, and the cost of obtaining them from the mines give them a high value. Other metals, rare stones, and sometimes shells are used as money. The gold dollar of this country contains 25.8 grains of gold of 900 degrees fineness, the silver dollar 412.5 grains of silver

also 900 fine. At an early period in the history of the American colonies, owing to the scarcity of a circulating medium, the coinage of shillings was authorized. But previous to the adoption of the Constitution, the colonial coin had relative value only.

Paper currency is common in this country. In 1689, Massachusetts, in order to meet the expenses of an unfortunate expedition against the French and Indians of Canada, was obliged to issue bills of credit, which were made a legal tender in payment of debt. And such was the origin of paper money in America. At the close of the Revolutionary war, the country was flooded with a paper currency, to the extent of millions of dollars. The government expected to redeem its paper in time, but this has never been done. During the late civil war, the necessity again arose for funds. In 1861, the government issued upwards of five hundred million dollars in treasury notes, receivable as money and bearing 7 per cent. interest. Shortly after this the Treasury issued a hundred and fifty millions of dollars in non-interest-bearing legal tender notes. These notes are called greenbacks.

Besides government bonds, (they may be termed money), there is yet another kind of currency—namely, bank notes. Some national banks are banks of issue, that is, such a bank can issue currency as notes bearing its name providing the management has first deposited with the government in gold something above the amount issued—or what is the same thing, has invested in government bonds. Should the bank fail, these bonds would be sold and out of the proceeds the bill holders would be paid.

CIVIS.

Spread out the thunder in its softest tones, and it becomes a lullaby for children.

The following would have been more timely in our last issue, but lack of space prevented its appearance:

"When does Easter fall" is to most people a puzzling question. They know of no way of finding an answer except to search in the almanac, but why it should be April 13th one year, and March 25th another they have no idea whatever. The vernal equinox occurs on the 21st of March, the days, which up to that time had been shorter than the nights, are then equal with them, and from that time the days grow longer as the nights shorten till June 21st, when the sun stands at the summer solstice. Remember that Easter can never come until after the vernal equinox, but may fall at any time during the following month. The rule, is that the Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox is Easter. In 1883 the full moon followed close on the equinox, and the Sunday following, or March 25th was Easter; in 1884 the moon reached its full face April 11th, and the Sunday after it was the 13th; in 1885 Easter day fell on the 5th of April. The probable reason that such a course is adopted in fixing the Easter festival, is an inclination to imitate the regard which the ancient nations had for the changes of the heavenly bodies. We, with our dazzling artificial lights are apt to pay less attention to the appearances of the great natural lamps of the earth than were the Hebrews, who fixed all their festivals at times dependent upon the aspect of the sun or moon. Thus, the Hebrew year began with the new moon nearest the time of the spring equinox, and the Feast of the Passover came in the middle of that first month, that is, at the next full moon. Christ was crucified on the day before the Passover (Friday) and rose from the dead on the day after it, (Sunday). The day of His rising has been remembered as Easter by

most orthodox Christian sects ever since.

"May" is derived from *Maius*, which was a contraction of *Magius* indicating growth and the month received this appellation by reason of being the season of growth. The notion that the month was so named by the Romans in honor of Maia, the mother of Mercury is usually regarded as an erroneous one, for the name was in use before Mercury and his mother were known. There is yet to be found the remnant of a custom, once widespread in Europe, of holding a floral festival on the first of the month, or May-day. The Hawthorn blossoms were universally used in May-day decoration, and in consequence received the name "May." The practice of gathering the same, is spoken of by many early writers as "going a Maying." Flowers were usually placed on a tall pole called the May-pole, around which the merry-makers danced during the live-long day. The fairest maid of the village was crowned "Queen of May;" she sat in state and conducted the happy ceremonies of the day.

At a *conversazione* given to Prof. Helmholtz at University College London, the following unpublished letter from Sir Isaac Newton to Dr. Law was exhibited:

London, December 15, 1716.

Dear Doctor:—He that in ye mine of knowledge deepest diggeth, hath like every other miner ye least breathing time, and must sometimes at least come to terr; alt for air. In one of these respiratory intervals I now sit doune to write to you, my friend. You ask me how with so much study I manage to retene my health. Ah my dear doctor, you have a better opinion of your lazy friend than he hath of himself. Morpheus is my best companion; without 8 or 9 hours of him ye correspondent is not worth

one scavenger's peruke. My practizes did at ye first hurt my stomach, but now I eat heartily enow as ye will see when I come down beside you. I have been much amused by ye singular phenomena resulting from bringing a needle into contact with a piece of amber or resin fricated on silk clothe. Ye flame putteth me in mind of sheet lightning on a small—hou very small—scale. But I shall in my epistles abjure Philosophy, whereof when I come down to Sakly I'll give you enow. I began to scrawl at 5 mins frim 9 of ye clk, and have in writing consumed 10 mins. My Ld. Somerset is announced.

Farewell. Gd bless you and help yr sincere friend

ISAAC NEWTON.

To Dr Law, Suffolk.

PLUNDER.

Capt. Willard Glazier, at the head of a large and well equipped exploring party has been searching for the ultimate head of the Mississippi River. Leaving Lake Itasca, which has been so long regarded as the source of the great river, he and his party plunged boldly into the untrodden forests of central Minnesota, and about 3 miles beyond Itasca found another small lake which is regarded as the true head of the Mississippi. The lake is called Lake Glazier that the fame of the Captain's achievement may be perpetuated.

An effort is in operation to rescue Niagara and its surroundings from the grasp of money-makers, and monopolists, and to secure the lands to the State, that the region may be preserved in its native beauty, with no quack advertisements or hucksters' stalls to mar the view. Now comes a series of suggestions, that in the event of this desirable end being reached a museum should be erected near the Falls, to be devoted exclusively to the elucidation,

and explanation of the physical and geological history of the place. Its walls should be built of rock from local quarries and its rooms contain nothing which does not possess a true scientific value, all specimens should have a direct bearing on the history of the Falls. Maps, views, and descriptions of other waterfalls of note should be found there, that the inquiring stranger could gain a true estimate of Niagara.

The superintendent of the Naval Observatory at Washington has decided not to conform at present to the recommendations of the Prime-meridian Conference in respect to the beginning of the astronomical day. Hitherto the astronomical day has begun at noon, twelve hours later than the beginning of the civil day. The commission recommended the abolition of this distinction, and the Royal Observatory at Greenwich immediately accepted and acted upon the recommendation. It is understood that most of the professors in the Naval Observatory opposed the change as being inconvenient (requiring observations before and after midnight to be recorded as of different dates) and likely to lead to confusion in comparing observations made years ago with those to be made hereafter.

Mr. Coote has described some curious moneys existing among the natives of the New Hebrides and adjacent islands. On one of the islands he noticed a neatly-kept "money-house," in which he found a number of mats hanging from the roof. A low fire was kept constantly burning, the smoke from which colored and cured the mats. A well colored mat is worth as much as a fine hog. This money can never be taken from the money-house, though the title in it can be transferred from one owner to another. The Santa Cruz Islanders use for money short pieces of rope, orna-

mented with red feathers. The money of the Solomon Islands consists of neatly-worked pieces of shell, about the size of shirt-buttons. They are strung on strings, and are distinguished as red, and white money. Dog teeth are of higher value, being comparable to our gold coins. The currency-table of these islands would read:

10 cocoanuts=1 string of white money
 10 strings white money=1 string of red money or 1 dog-tooth.
 10 strings red money=1 isa, or 50 dolphins' teeth.
 10 isa=1 fine woman.
 1 bahika or marble ring=1 deer-head with antlers, or good hog, or 1 useful young man.

KERNELS.

Dig your well before you are thirsty.

Books are the money of literature, but only the counters of science.

When two ride the same horse, one must ride behind.

A weed is a plant whose virtues have as yet not been discovered.

The sick in body call for aid;

The sick in mind are covetous of more disease,

And when at worst, they dream themselves quite well.

Diogenes being presented at a feast with a large goblet of wine threw it on the ground. When reproved for such waste, he answered: "Had I drunk it there would have been double waste; I as well as the wine would have been lost."

The king of Spain, fancying that he possessed musical talent, liked to take part in Boccherini's quartettes, but he never could succeed in keeping time. One day, when he was three or four bars behindhand, the other performers

took fright at the confusion occasioned by the royal bow, and were about to wait for him. "Fiddle away," cried the enthusiastic monarch, "I shall soon catch up with you."

HOME MENTION.

A course of study in Agriculture has been introduced into the plan for next year's labor.

The class in Surveying has been engaged of late in triangulation measurements on Utah Lake.

The Circular for the X Academic Year is out from the press already. It is much more extended than those of foregoing years.

There are 9 candidates from among the students who are eligible, now undergoing the examinations for Teachers' Certificates, 4 for certificates as Assistant Teachers, and 11 for certificates of efficiency in the various special courses.

The Polysophical Society formally adjourned its sessions for the year, on May 15th. A hearty vote of thanks to the officers of the Society and others of the instructors who have labored in its interests was moved and carried by the students when assembled for devotional exercises May 22nd.

LITERARY NOTICES.

First Lessons in Physiology and Hygiene, with Special Reference to Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Narcotics. New and Revised Edition. By Chas. K. Mills, M. D. Philadelphia: Eldredge & Bro. Price to teachers for examination, 50 cents.

We acknowledge the regular receipt also of *Parry's Literary Journal*. It is always filled with carefully selected matter and should be well patronized.

The *Territorial Enquirer*, *Deseret News*, *S. L. Herald*, *Ogden Herald* and *Home Sentinel* continue to arrive regularly.



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CLOSING WORDS.

The present number of the REVIEW completes Volume I; and the periodical rejoices in the distinction of having passed the first year of its existence with marked success. By "success" in this case we mean the full achievement of the object which the officers of the Polysophical Society had in founding the paper. What their aims and purposes were may be learned by reference to the prospectus, an extract from which appeared in No. I. According to the present bye-laws of the Society, the officers are released with the disbanding of the society for the year, and as the editors of the REVIEW hold their positions by virtue of being officers of the society, we hereby descend from the tripod and retire from duty. In so doing, we think of the past year's labors with a degree of pleasure which is greatly heightened by the belief that they have thus far borne, and will continue to bear fruits of good. We sincerely hope that the growth and success of future volumes will be commensurate with that of the first.

THE GREAT POLITICAL CHESS-GAME.

An indisputable evidence of the unparalleled progress of civilization among the nations is the ascendancy which diplomacy has gained over warfare. Until a comparatively recent date, difficulties arising between governments, were in most instances the unmistakable fore-runners of war, and diplomacy came in as a secondary agent to arrange the new circumstances which had been erected by that great court of last resort—the battle-field. King Louis Philip of France, the "Napoleon of Peace" as he was called at his time, is generally credited with the inauguration of the era of diplomacy; in which it is apparent that warfare plays the part of a secondary agent in the adjustment of international dissensions; and in evidence of the truth of this statement, the case of the Emperor Louis Napoleon of France is frequently quoted. It is claimed of him that he might have closed his earthly career in safety upon his throne, if he had continued to play his part skillfully, instead of suffering himself to be dragged into open war with Germany, by which he lost his position, and France her political prestige. A similar game is now in progress between the powerful nations, England and Russia. It is absolutely necessary in contemplating the development of great political exigencies to keep one's mind entirely unbiased by any ideas of favoritism or prejudice, and to deal only with facts as far as known. In viewing this great Anglo-Russian issue, at present calling forth the almost breathless attention of the world, two great facts will have to be constantly kept in view—Russia's necessity of establishing direct communication with the Indian Ocean, and England's anxiety not to lose her Indian

possessions. These two objects are in sharp antagonism with each other; and the question before the statesmen of both nations is how to find a solution mutually satisfactory; for both know well the truth of Napoleon's saying "The greatest calamity to a nation next to a defeat on the battle field is a victory." If Russia appears at present to be the aggressor and to be acting rather insolently, and England's great statesmen to be maneuvering on a more defensive plan, these are symptoms merely of peculiar phases in the progress of the controversy, during which neither of the contending parties contemplates subtracting a single iota from her main object. At present it does not seem in the interests of Russia to crowd the Liberals of England under Gladstone to the wall, for they would then be forced to resign and give place to the Tories who are the outspoken enemies of Russia. The oscillating policy of Gladstone, which has several times put the confidence of his friends and supporters to very severe tests, is again crowned by that wonderful luck that has become proverbial in the career of that modern cunctator. If war should occur in the near future between the aforesaid parties, it will be because the lines of policy have inadvertently slipped out of the hands of one of them; and the mistake on the political chess board will be sought to be rectified on the battle field; but if peace continues for some time to come it will not be on account of a final settlement of the difficulty; it will only show that the players are yet well matched and neither offers to the other any advantage. The adage "Man proposes and God disposes" will, however, receive another verification.

The history of the world consists in a great measure of the biographies of great men.

COMPOSITE PHOTOGRAPHY.

At the last meeting of the Society, President J. E. Talmage delivered an address on the newly announced subject of Composite Photography. His remarks were illustrated by a number of photographs recently taken by this process under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences.

A classification of things can only be made in accordance with certain peculiarities, common to every member of the class, and the more such peculiarities preponderate above individual characteristics, the more marked are the boundaries of the class. It is common with us to speak of "family likeness" as a sure proof of relation. We mean by "family likeness," the combined effect of those characteristics of face and figure which are common to the whole family whilst we neglect to observe the peculiarities which serve to distinguish the individual members. It has been remarked that during the first days of a traveler's association with a strange race, he is entirely unable to distinguish individuals; all the people appearing to him alike with the exception of obvious differences of age and sex. The probable reason is that among the multitude of images of the people received on the retina of his eye, he neglects to observe all minor and individual characters, whilst the common features intensify themselves to his mind.

Starting with this idea, Francis Galton has lately suggested the feasibility of taking composite photographs of a number of individuals, and thus of rendering visible their leading features. His suggestion has been acted upon, and with surprising success.

A photograph was exhibited by the speaker, which was a combination of thirty-one portraits of members of the National Academy. In taking the same,